

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 /126 W

----- 118613

R 181520Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8317

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

UNCLAS PRETORIA 2484

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RH

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN REACTION TO SMITH-MUZOREWA
MEETING

1. SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS COVERAGE OF JULY 17 SMITH-MUZOREWA MEETING HAS BEEN FAIRLY LOW-KEY. IN EDITORIAL JULY 18, JOHANNESBURG STAR COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON SMITH'S MEETING WITH "MOST REPRESENTATIVE BLACK VOICE AVAILABLE" BECAUSE WHITES "MUST GET DOWN TO THE ROOTS OF BLACK UNREST AND TALK" IN ORDER TO FIND SOLUTION TO RHODESIA'S DIFFICULT PROBLEMS.

2. NEWS ARTICLES IN BOTH STAR AND RAND DAILY MAIL MENTIONED UNEXPECTEDLY LENGTHY 80- MINUTE MEETING, AND BISHOP MUZOREWA'S APPARENT SATISFACTION AS HE EMERGED FROM PRIME MINISTER SMITH'S OFFICE. EMPHASIS WAS GIVEN TO MUZOREWA'S REMARKS THAT MEETING HAD BEEN "VERY CORDIAL", THAT SMITH HAD GIVEN HIM "A GENTLEMANLIKE RECEPTION" AND THAT HE HAD BEEN TALKED TO "LIKE A PERSON." AFRIKAANS PRESS HANDLED STORY IN SIMILAR
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TERMS.

3. RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS PRIOR TO MEETING TO
PLAY DOWN ITS SIGNIFICANCE WERE CONTINUED AFTER
MEETING WITH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SMITH WOULD MEET
JULY 18 WITH TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF PRO-SETTLEMENT
AFRICAN SETTLEMENT CONVENTION.
HURD

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NNN

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